

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are currently pending. Claim 6 has been amended by the present amendment. The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention; Claims 6-8 were indicated as being allowable if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and Claims 1-5 and 10-14 were indicated as being allowable.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-5 and 10-14, and the indication that Claims 6-8 include allowable subject matter.

In rejecting independent Claim 6, the Office Action states that the claim language is vague because, in the Office's view, it is not clear what physical means contain the contents data.¹ Further, the Office Action states that the claimed feature regarding the environmental variables is indefinite as to the acquiring of these variables.²

In view of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, Claim 6 has been amended to recite "storing and associating identification information of contents data to be reproduced with environmental variables at a time of reproduction, the contents data being recorded on a recording medium and the environmental variables being acquired by an acquisition means." Support for the above amendments is found at least in original Claim 1.

Therefore, Claim 6 clarifies that the identification information of contents data to be reproduced is stored and associated with environmental variables at a time of reproduction of

¹ See Office Action dated March 2, 2010, page 2.

² Id.

the contents data, the contents data being recorded on a recording medium and the environmental variables being acquired by an acquisition means.

Thus, Claim 6, as amended, clarifies the physical means (i.e., the recording medium) that contains the contents data, and that the acquisition means acquires the environmental variables.

Accordingly, based on the above discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection of independent Claim 6 (and associated dependent Claims 7 and 8) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,
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